



Robert Greene Steme Edward J. Kessler Jorge A. Goldstein David K.S. Cornwell Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Michele A. Cimbala even R. Ludwig hn M. Covert Robert C. Millonia Michael V. Messinger

Timothy J. Shea, Jr. Patrick E. Garrett Heidi L. Kraus Edward W. Yee Albert L. Ferro* Donald R. Banowit Peter A. Jackman Jeffrey S. Weaver Kendrick P. Patterson Vincent L. Capuano Eldora Ellison Floyd Thomas C. Fiala

Judith U. Kim

Theodore A. Wood Elizabeth J. Haanes Joseph S. Ostroff Frank R. Cottingham Christine M. Lhulie Rae Lynn Prengaman Jane Shershenovich* Lawrence J. Carroll* George S. Bardmess Daniel A. Klein* Jason D. Eisenberg Michael D. Specht Andrea J. Kamage Tracy L. Muller* LuAnne M. Yuricek*

Aric W. Ledford*

Registered Patent Agents • Karen R. Markowicz Nancy J. Leith Helene C. Carlson Gaby L. Longswor Matthew J. Dowd Aaron L. Schwartz Mary B. Tung Katrina Y. Pei Quach Bryan 1. Skelton Robert A. Schwartz Timothy A. Doyle Jennifer R. Mahalingappa Teresa A. Colella Jeffrey S. Lundgren Victoria S. Rutherfor Eric D. Hayes

Of Counsel Kenneth C. Bass III

*Admitted only in Maryland *Admitted only in Virginia •Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

December 11, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8525 INTERNET ADDRESS: BRIAND@SKGF.COM

Art Unit 1636

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 09/438,358; Filed: November 12, 1999

Compositions and Methods for Recombinational Cloning of Nucleic

Acid Molecules

Inventors:

Gerard et al.

Our Ref:

0942.4640001/RWE/BJD/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1); 1.
- Fee Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/17); 2.
- Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038; 3.
- Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and 4.
- 5. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC.: 1100 New York Avenue, NW: Washington, DC 20005: 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540: www.skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents December 11, 2003 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Brian J. Del Buono Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 42,473

15 ian The

RWE/BJD/JKM/acr Enclosures

SKGF 209143v1

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW : Washington, DC 20005 : 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540 : www.skgf.com